

the rank and file in action

# Labor Today

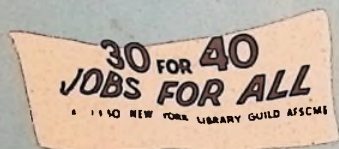
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Volume 14, No. 6

412

June 1975

## The job march and after



## Hawkins Bill hearings in Phila.

## Steelworkers hit dangerous conditions

*Is your job killing you?*



## Support grows for Magma 71



'WE SENT THEM A MESSAGE'

# March for jobs draws 65,000

by JIM WILLIAMS, Co-Editor  
LABOR TODAY

Washington, D.C., is still echoing with the cries of over 65,000 trade unionists and their supporters who gathered there April 26 to demand jobs and an end to the ruinous economic policies of the Ford-Rockefeller administration. Tens of thousands, perhaps as many as 40,000, marched from the U.S. Capitol building to the Robert F. Kennedy Stadium through northeast Washington, where they joined an equal number of trade unionists who had gathered for the Rally for Jobs called by the Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO.

Standing on East Capitol Street as the march progressed, I felt as though I were in a human sea of Black, white and Brown faces that were surging past. There are about 58 International Unions affiliated with the IUD and I'd swear that almost all of them were represented, with by far the biggest turnout coming from New York and New Jersey.

It seemed as though everywhere there were members of District Council 37 of the State, County & Municipal Employees, Local 1199 Hospital Workers, Electrical Workers and others. You name it, they were all there; teachers, carpenters, plumbers, motormen, sanitation workers, electrical workers, social workers and what-have-you. I saw banners from the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the National Coalition Against Inflation and Unemployment as well as from local chapters of TUAD.

There had been nothing like it in Washington since the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom or some of the latter-60's antiwar demonstrations.

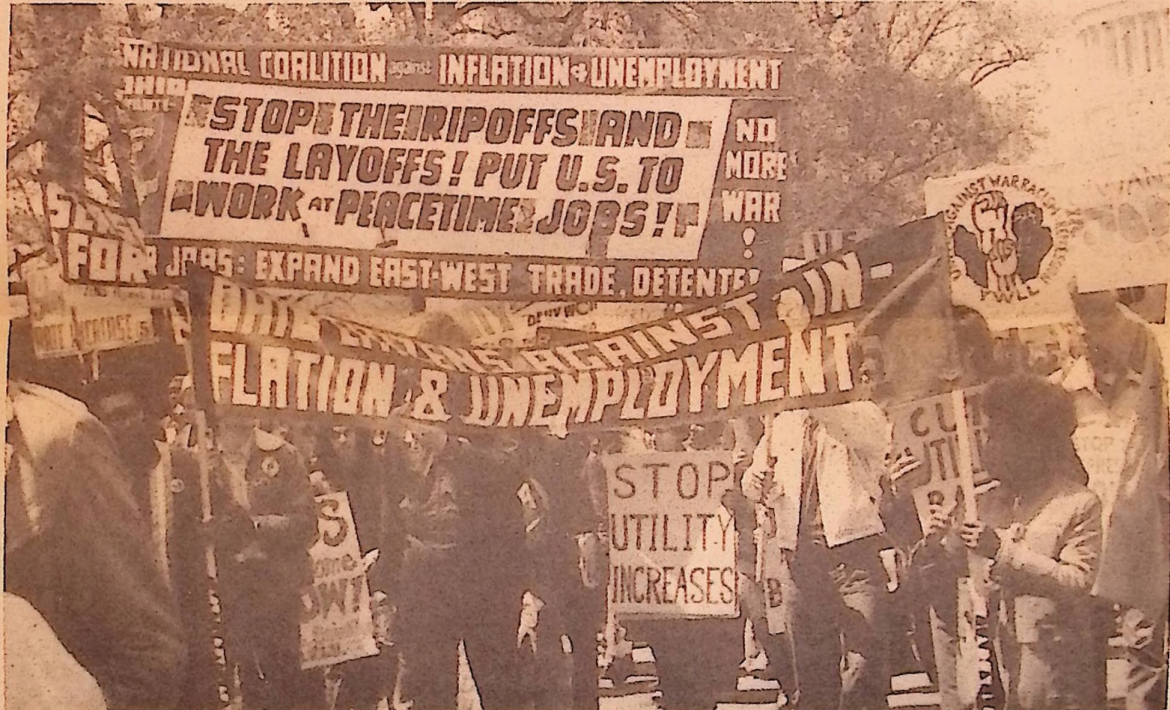
But there was one major difference: this was a trade union march, sponsored by the IUD and benefitting from the persistence of its most militant sectors. Unlike the antiwar marches, this was a profoundly inter-racial march, drawing equally, it seemed, from Black and white. It was an important demonstration of the high level of Black-white unity that exists among the rank and file today.



Signs carried by the demonstrators called for Jobs Now, Improved Unemployment Compensation, cutting the military budget and expanding East-West trade. Others called for an end to racism, 30 hours work for 40 hours pay. Many individual union's slogans were in advance of those put forth by IUD.

At RFK Stadium, the crowd became even thicker as thousands arrived straight off their buses. Buses continued to arrive at the stadium all afternoon, even up to the conclusion of the Rally. Many remained outside on the grounds of the stadium, because of the enormous crowd within.

(continued on p. 2)



## A GIANT STEP FORWARD

An Editorial

# April 26 and after

Like the shots fired in Lexington and Concord in 1775, history will likely record that the April 26 March for Jobs sponsored by the Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO, was the "shot heard round the world" in the struggle against the corporate monopolies whose policies have brought the nation to near ruin.

In 1930, on March 6, over one million persons demonstrated across the nation to demand home relief, to demand unemployment compensation and an end to the hunger that gripped the country's unemployed millions.

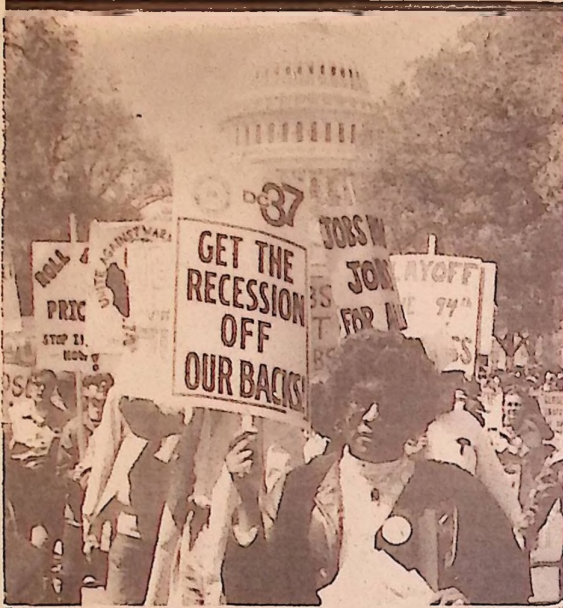
But at that time, the American Federation of Labor was silent. William Green, President of the AFL, continued to voice AFL policy when he denounced unemployment compensation as "socialistic." It was six years later, with the formation of the CIO, that the unemployed found a friend in organized labor.

That those 65,000 who marched and rallied in Washington on April 26 came under the banner of the IUD is an indication of the organized labor movement's readiness to move in a much more progressive and decisive manner against the ruinous policies of the Ford-Rockefeller administration. Unlike the 30's, when Green turned a deaf ear to the rank and file, progressive leaders in the IUD heard their cries and responded to the pressures for action.

A new coalition in labor could be shaping up between the rank and file and those progressive trade union leaders who are fed up with the do-nothing policies of the AFL-CIO hierarchy.

(continued on p. 2)





## March for jobs (continued from page 1)

Inside, the spirit of the crowd was very high, with groups singing "Solidarity Forever" over and over again. In a way, it seemed that the IUD had been overcautious in its preparations and slogans. For the program was not in the same spirited mood; it lacked the militant tone echoing in the bleachers.

Walter Burke read a speech from IUD President I.W. Abel, who was reported absent because of a death in his family. Abel called for new Paul Reveres to "warn the nation of the dangers of a sick economy and to demand the jobs to which you are entitled by law."

"Today we can feel the spirit and the dynamics of the great leaders of American labor in the past. I am thinking of men who fought exploitation and hardship in their times... Samuel Gompers and Eugene Debs... John L. Lewis and the founding leader of the Steelworkers, the beloved Philip Murray... Sidney Hillman of the Clothing Workers and Walter Reuther," Abel said.

Abel ended by quoting former Vice President Henry A. Wallace in calling for a "century of the common man." Wallace was also the 1948 Presidential candidate of the Progressive Party. For Abel, who has drawn heavy fire from rank-and-filers for his Experimental Negotiating Agreement, it was a pretty good speech.



**Labor**  
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### STAFF

EDITORS: John Kailin, Jim Williams  
ART DIRECTOR: Peggy Lipschutz  
CIRCULATION: Douglas Wagner  
COLUMNISTS: Fred Gaboury  
EDITORIAL COORDINATORS: Susan de Gracia, Andrea Shapiro, Honda Talkie  
OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Kransdorf  
PRODUCTION: Ken Appelhans, Bill Appelhans, Bill Mackovich

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## April 26 and after (continued from page 1)

There were some forces that didn't want the rally to be a success.

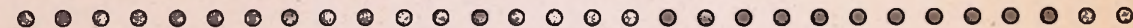
High on the list were AFL-CIO President George Meany and his pals, and the business establishment. These forces got an assist from a relatively small group of disrupters who sought to present themselves as the sole voice of the rank and file and decide who would be allowed to speak at the rally. Those who actually charged the stage may well have been from the CIA's "dirty tricks" bag.

In a sense, the disruption was made easier by the IUD's failure to properly anticipate the much more militant mood of the crowd and to shape its rally program accordingly. Hubert Humphrey was not really what people had in mind. If speakers like AFSCME's Jerry Jerry Wurf and Congresspeople like Barbara Jordan and Bella Abzug had spoken first, the disruption might have fallen on its face.

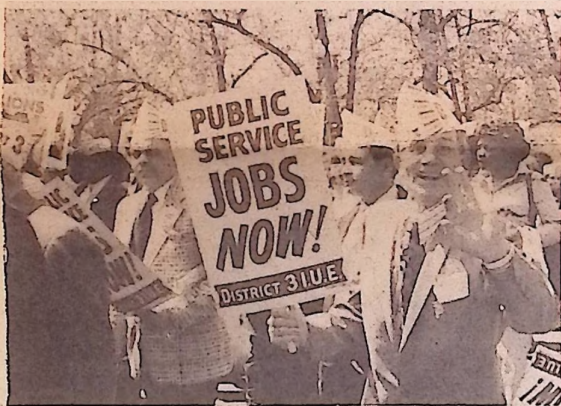
The spirit of the crowd certainly included several demands more advanced than those of the IUD, including cutting the military budget, 30 hours work for 40 hours pay, and the fight against racism.

It is regrettable that the IUD also failed to rally other unions like the United Auto Workers, the Mine Workers, the United Electrical Workers, the West Coast Longshoremens and the Teamsters in the rally coalition.

Nonetheless, IUD Secretary-Treasurer Jacob Clayman was absolutely right when he told Congress that there is a new mood in labor that won't take "no" for an answer. Having brought 65,000 to Washington, it is time to start planning for the first one million.



But all hell broke loose when Senator Hubert H. Humphrey got up to speak. At this point, he was met with loud boo's from most of the crowd and, as if signal had been given, several hundred persons carrying banners and signs rushed onto the playing field to mill around the speakers' platform, shouting angrily. Some of them, with degrees of success, stormed the microphones. Humphrey, a Senator of lackluster performance in recent

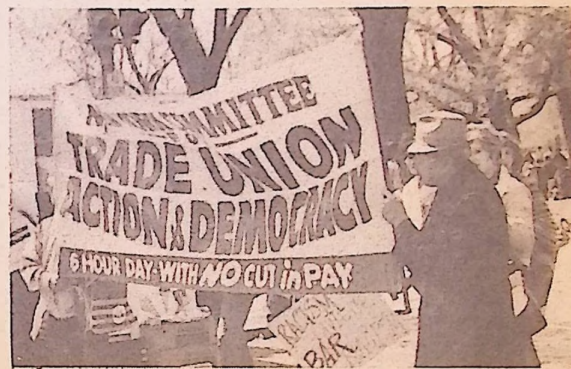


years, was unable to continue his speech. Humphrey was probably included on the list of speakers to placate the Meany forces who opposed the march, but his appearance was a provocation as far as many of the audience were concerned. And, he provided an excellent focus for a group which seemed bent on disrupting the whole rally.

Congresswomen Barbara Jordan and Bella Abzug tried to continue the program and quiet the stormy protest going on below the speakers' stand. Many who were indignant at Humphrey went back to their seats in deference to Abzug and Jordan, who had won their spurs in the peace and freedom movements. But a crowd remained, provoked in part by disrupters of a suspicious nature, among whom were the fascist-like "National Caucus of Labor Committees" who are well-known for their disruption at trade union events.

Even the best efforts of Abzug and Jordan failed, and as confusion continued to reign on the platform, an IUD spokesman called the rally to a close—about 2 hours early. Among those still waiting to speak were Jerry Wurf, President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, whose members made up the largest single contingent.

Even so, trade unionists remained at the stadium for a good while after the program ended as they discussed the march and the



rally and the kinds of programs they needed to get started back home.

Its impact was not lost upon public opinion. Much of the business press sought to concentrate on the negative aspect of the disruption.

"The hooliganism that broke up the weekend's mass unemployment demonstration in Washington confirms the judgment of George Meany and other old line AFL-CIO leaders that the whole idea was a mistake," said The New York Times. But even the Times was forced to admit that "the fact that none of the scheduled speeches could be delivered did not lessen the impact of the huge turnout. There was no mistaking the message that putting the jobless back to work is the country's primary task."

IUD Secretary-Treasurer Jacob Clayman sent a letter to Congress after the rally saying that the rally indicated "unemployed workers will not quietly accept high unemployment as a way of life."

Clayman warned Congress not to expect workers to "react as passively as they did in the Great Depression. Times have changed, the world has changed. Our rally made that crystal clear."





UNIONISTS, MEDICS ORGANIZE

# Health, safety laws can work for you

by CACOSH Staff

The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) can be a useful tool in the fight for safer jobs. It provides standards for safe and healthful working conditions, and fines for employers caught violating these standards.

OSHA certainly isn't the solution to workers health and safety problems--there are too few inspectors, fines are too low, averaging about \$25, standards setting is slow and industry-dominated. Congress provides puny funding for OSHA and is constantly trying to limit its authority. Worst of all, the law provides for state governments to regain authority--and the OSHA law was originally passed because the states weren't doing the job.

Labor did stop state OSHA plans in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Ohio, and has gotten the ones in Illinois, New York and New Jersey thrown out, but most other states are now responsible for safety and health enforcement--and they're doing a lousy job of it.

OSHA won't make your plant safe, but it can be a useful wedge against the company and can serve to help focus your fellow workers' attention on health and safety

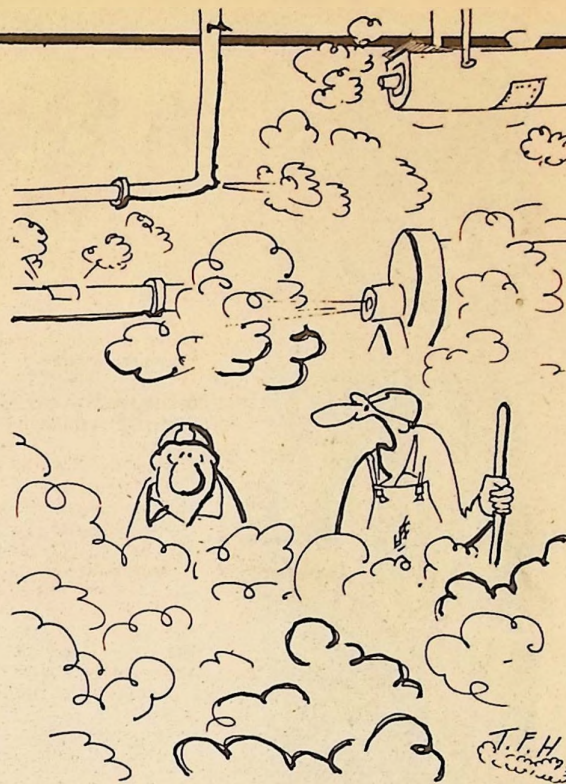
problems and the need to solve them. Get to know the OSHA standards and procedures --and make them work for you.

Say you're working in a chemical plant, and it seems like an awful lot of people have trouble with their lungs--coughs, bronchitis, shortness of breath. You think it could be the chemicals you're exposed to on the job. So you go to management and they say, "No, it's impossible, those chemicals are harmless," and they quote a few fancy figures to prove it. What do you do then?

Or say there's one of those rare doctors who's really interested in preventing people from getting sick, and not just in \$\$\$\$. How does he or she use their skills to help working people?

These two questions have been answered by the formation of a growing number of coalitions between workers and medical-technical people. And together, they're really leading the fight to force industry to clean up unsafe conditions.

An example is the 4-year-old Chicago Area Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (CACOSH), composed of workers from OCAW, UAW, UE, USWA and other unions, and doctors, nurses, engineers and researchers. There are



"Now I know why there's no pollution in the plant--it's all in here."

a lot of similar groups around the country, and new ones getting started all the time.

Provided with the scientific facts to back them up, workers can go to management with proof of hazardous conditions and really turn things around. The groups can also assist in dealing with OSHA and workers compensation cases.

Most of the groups are involved in the political struggle to make OSHA serve workers' needs. Urban Planning Aid in Boston stopped that state's takeover of OSHA, and CACOSH led the fight to have the Illinois OSHA turned back to the Feds.

For a complete list of useful groups and sources of help, write the Occupational Health Project of the Medical Committee for Human Rights, 558 Capp St., San Francisco, California 94110.

## ACTION CAN SAVE LIVES

# Is your job killing you?

by DAVID SIMMONS

Chicago Area Committee on Occupational Health & Safety

"WORKER CRUSHED BY FALLING STEEL"

"CANCER COMMON AMONG WORKERS AT CHEMICAL PLANT"

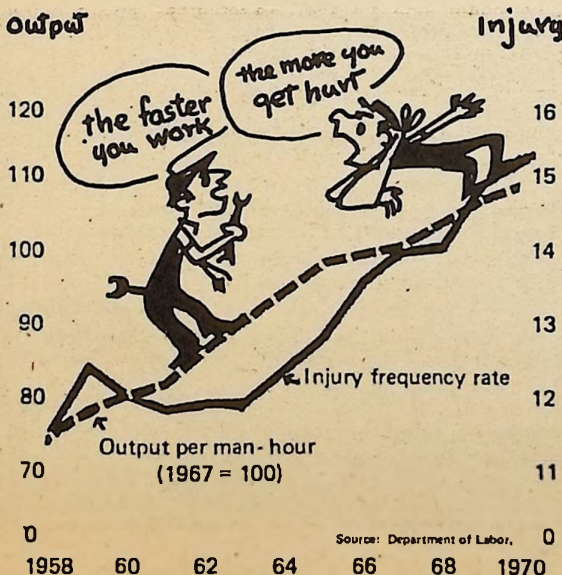
All of us have seen headlines like these in the papers, and probably have known fellow workers who have been injured or killed on the job. How common are job accidents and illnesses? Companies go to great lengths to hide the real numbers--because they are shocking.

Nearly 25,000 workers in this country die every year in accidents on the job. One hundred thousand more workers die from occupational diseases like black lung, asbestos-caused cancer, and silicosis. And these figures are conservative estimates by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Why? Are factories just "naturally" dangerous places to work? Do coke ovens have to leak deadly fumes? Of course not. In countries where workers have a real voice in setting conditions in the shop, accidents are few and job-related illnesses rare. But of course workers in this country are still fighting to get that control.

Accidents in many industries are more common than ever. The drive for bigger and bigger profits leaves little time or money for new and safer machinery, rest periods, adequate maintenance, or training for new workers. For the bosses, increased productivity means big money--for workers it means lost fingers and arms, lung damage, and deafness.

Index of Output per Man-Hour and Injury Frequency Rates in Manufacturing, 1958-1970.



With all the medical and scientific advances that have taken place in the last fifty years, you'd think occupational diseases would be a thing of the past, like small pox or whooping cough. But 250,000 U.S. workers contract new cases of occupational diseases every year. Many of those diseases, like liver cancer in plastic workers, are incurable.

New disease-causing chemicals are discovered almost every month. Arsenic, chloroprene and vinyl chloride are handled by millions of workers in this country, and scientists now know they can all cause cancer.

When your hand is cut or your knee bruised, it's very obvious. But with chemicals, the effects may not show up for 20 or 30 years--and then it may be too late. People who worked with asbestos in the shipyards during World War II started showing up with lung cancer in the late 1950's. The effects of vinyl chloride, in use since the late forties, have only recently been discovered.

So what's being done about all this? Not much by the corporations or the government, that's for sure. A new chemical is introduced into industry almost every half hour. None of these have been tested to see if they harm workers. Twenty years from now, scientists will find skin cancer in a group of workers who began a new chemical operation in 1975. Workers are being used

(continued on page 8)



# A Strange Funeral in Braddock

By Michael Gold

*Listen to the mournful drums of a strange funeral.  
Listen to the story of a strange American funeral.*

In the town of Braddock, Pennsylvania,  
Where steel-mills live like fowl dragons, burning, devouring man and earth and sky.  
It is spring. Now the spring has wandered in, a frightened child in the land of the steel ogres,  
And Jan Clepak, the great grinning Bohemian, on his way to work at six in the morning,  
Sees buttons of bright grass on the hills across the river, and plum-trees hung with wild white blossoms,  
And as he sweats half-naked at his puddling trough, a fiend by the Jake of brimstone.  
The plum-trees soften his heart,  
The green grass-memories return and soften his heart,  
And he forgets to be hard as steel and remembers only his wife's breasts, his baby's little laughs and the way men sing when they are drunk and happy.  
He remembers cows and sheep, and the grinning peasants, and the villages and fields of sunny Bohemia.

*Listen to the mournful drums of a strange funeral.  
Listen to the story of a strange American funeral.*

Wake up, wake up! Jan Clepak, the furnaces are roaring like tigers,  
The flames are flinging themselves at the high roof, like mad, yellow tigers at their cage.

Wake up! it is ten o'clock, and the next batch of mad, flowing steel is to be poured into your puddling trough.  
Wake up! Wake up! for a flawed lever is cracking in one of those fiendish cauldrons.  
Wake up! and wake up! for now the lever has cracked, and the steel is raging and running down the floor like an escaped madman,  
Wake up! Oh, the dream is ended, and the steel has swallowed you forever, Jan Clepak!

*Listen to the mournful drums of a strange funeral.  
Listen to the story of a strange American funeral.*

Now three tons of hard steel hold at their heart the bones, flesh, nerves, the muscles, brains and heart of Jan Clepak,  
They hold the memories of green grass and sheep, the plum-trees, the baby-laughter, and the sunny Bohemian villages.  
And the directors of the steel-mill present the great coffin of steel and man-memories to the widow of Jan Clepak,  
And on the great truck it is borne now to the great trench in the graveyard.  
And Jan Clepak's widow and two friends ride in a carriage behind the block of steel that holds Jan Clepak,  
And they weep behind the carriage blinds, and mourn the soft man who was slain by hard steel.

*Listen to the mournful drums of a strange funeral.  
Listen to the story of a strange American funeral.*

Now three thinkers are thinking strange thoughts in the graveyard.  
"O, I'll get drunk and stay drunk forever, I'll never marry woman, or father laughing children,  
I'll forget everything, I'll be nothing from now on,  
Life is a dirty joke, like Jan's funeral!"  
One of the friends is thinking in the sweet-smelling graveyard,  
As a derrick lowers the three tons of steel that held Jan Clepak.  
(LISTEN TO THE DRUMS OF THE STRANGE AMERICAN FUNERAL!)

"I'll wash clothes, I'll scrub floors, I'll be a fifty-cent whore, but my children will never work in the steel-mill!"  
Jan Clepak's wife is thinking as earth is shoveled over the great steel coffin,  
In the spring sunlight, in the soft April air,  
(LISTEN TO THE DRUMS OF THE STRANGE AMERICAN FUNERAL!)

"I'll make myself hard as steel, harder,  
I'll come some day and make bullets out of Jan's body, and shoot them into a tyrant's heart!"  
The other friend is thinking, the listener,  
He who listened to the mournful drums of the strange funeral,  
Who listened to the story of the strange American funeral,  
And turned as mad as a fiendish cauldron with cracked lever.

**LISTEN TO THE MOURNFUL DRUMS OF A STRANGE FUNERAL.  
LISTEN TO THE STORY OF A STRANGE AMERICAN FUNERAL.**

[The above poem is taken from *Proletarian Literature in the United States*, an Anthology, published in New York in 1935 by International Publisher. The book is now out of print.]

## COKE OVEN CANCER

# Steelwork unsafe work

by JIM WILLIAMS, Co-Editor  
LABOR TODAY

If you're a steelworker in Chicago-Gary, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Baltimore, or wherever there are mills and coke ovens, your chances of living to enjoy a comfortable old age and happy retirement aren't all that good.

This news probably comes as no great surprise to those who breathe noxious fumes all day, who work in high temperatures and noisy circumstances. But few are probably aware of just how serious the problem is.

The same sort of thing existed with Mine-workers. Most of them knew that the superfine dust that permeated the air when the mine owners introduced new automated equipment wasn't doing them any good. But it was about 15 years before legally documentable cases of "black lung" appeared and it took a state-wide general strike in West Virginia to win the first black lung compensation law.

While not enough is known about the potentials for occupational disease among steelworkers, enough is known to show the need for dramatically big improvements in working conditions. All too often, measures to protect safety and health are sacrificed on the altar of corporate profits.



The total number of steelworkers working in blast furnaces and steel mills in the Chicago area is about 86,500. They work for big firms like Bethlehem, US Steel, Youngstown Sheet & Tube, Wisconsin Steel, Republic and Inland.

### WORST CONDITIONS IN COKE OVENS

US Steel's Gary Works has 23,400 employees with 829 coke ovens, 12 blast furnaces and five sintering plants. US Steel's South Chicago Works has 10,000 employees, 12 blast furnaces and one sintering plant. Inland Steel, Indiana Harbor, has 14,000 employees, 523 coke ovens, one blast furnace and one sintering plant. Republic Steel has 3,845 employees, 75 coke ovens, one blast furnace.

All told, there are about 1989 coke ovens in the Chicago-Gary area, according to the Batelle Memorial Institute.

Workers who work in and around coke ovens and furnaces and mills have substantially reduced life expectancies. A study of death rates among steelworkers between the years 1953 and 1961 showed that of 58,828 steelworkers in the study, 4685 died and another 4685 were expected to die on the job. Of 2552 coke workers, 206 died during the study and another 198 were expected to die.

Working conditions around coke ovens are the worst in the whole steel industry. Significantly, the majority of workers in these jobs are Black or Latino.





# Workers hit unhealthy, working conditions



Coke workers work on and around giant ovens which cook coal in the absence of air for 16 to 20 hours. The temperatures in these ovens go from 1600 to 2000 degrees F.

This process produces a lot of dangerous gases, heat and other harmful substances. Hydrogen monoxide and hydrogen sulfide, ammonia and others are leaked either by improperly sealed oven doors or during the "quenching" process in which the completed coke is taken from the oven.

Workers on the blast furnaces encounter much the same problem. It is the blast furnace which takes iron ore, coke and limestone to form pig iron, which is later made into steel. These ovens operate at 2800° F.

Workers in both circumstances suffer much higher accident rates than normal because of exhaustion brought on by the heat. The presence of heat is always accompanied by a high accident rate, no matter what the industry.

Much of the rank and file struggles among steel workers in recent years have been centered around coke oven workers, who work in the hardest, dirtiest jobs in the mill. Increasingly, coke workers have become aware of the dangers to their health from their job.

The following statistics tell the story:

Coke oven workers die from respiratory cancer at a rate two-and-a-half times higher than other steelworkers.

Workers on the top of the coke ovens have a five-times higher risk of respiratory cancer than other steelworkers.

A ten-times higher lung cancer rate exists for topside oven workers with five or more years on the job.

Coke oven workers experience a seven-and-a-half times higher rate of kidney cancer.

Coke plant workers who work only in non-oven areas may have a higher risk of digestive cancer. Coke workers also have a greater rate of skin and internal organ cancer.



Heat is a killer on the coke ovens where topside temperatures reach 1800° F. Topside workers compound this by breathing carbon monoxide (a killer), sulfur dioxide (noxious) and coal particles. Cases of black lung have been reported among topside workers.

## BLAST AND STEEL FURNACES

But coke ovens are by no means the only dangerous work situation in the mills. Workers in blast and steel furnaces are exposed to a number of very hazardous conditions, including heat, noise, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide.

Studies have repeatedly shown that most accidents occur in hot areas. Heat is also a generator of toxic gases (carbon monoxide) and puts a strain on the heart. These lead to deaths from heart attacks for 30% of the workers who died on the job. (For what it's worth, smoking is found to greatly increase the chance of serious lung and heart disease for workers exposed to these hazards.)

## IN THE SINTERING PLANT

Workers in the sintering plants also are exposed to very high rates of carbon monoxide and other hazards. Sintering is a way of recycling iron particles that escape at various stages of the steel-making process. The "sinter" is then re-added to enrich the iron.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE?

There are new processes for producing steel that eliminate many of the hazards. One important point about the US steel industry is that, for a large part, its operating equipment is old and predominantly obsolete. This older equipment contributes to hazards through outmoded design and poor maintenance.

However, new technology can change some of this. A new process of making coke called "dry quenching" is now in use in Eastern Europe. It reduces the dangers to an acceptable minimum. Rank and filers and persons concerned about workers health can demand that the steel corporations install these new types of equipment.

More immediately, the dangers can be reduced by reducing exposure.

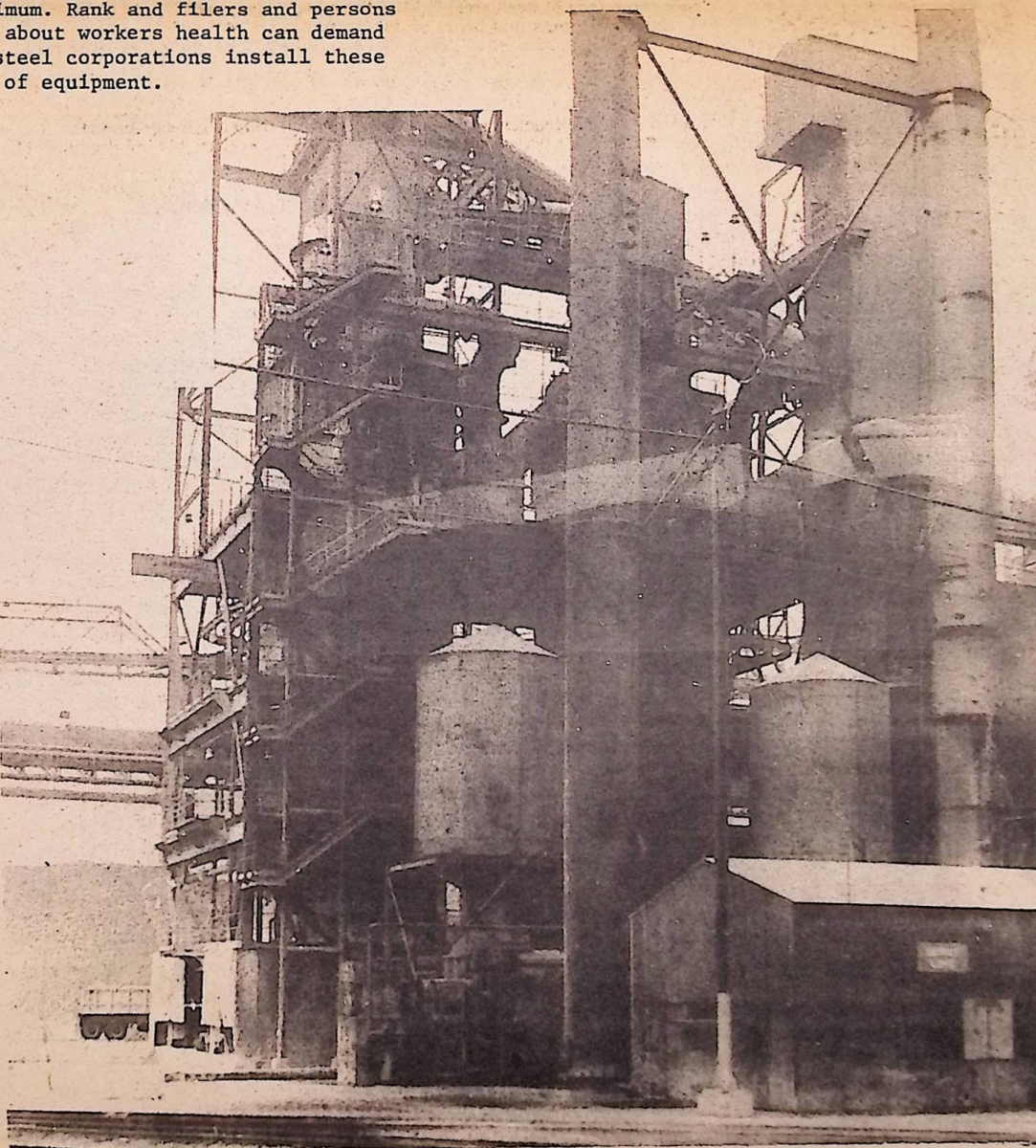
Exposure can be reduced by installing more up-to-date, tighter-sealing doors which are less likely to allow leaks while the coke is "cooking." Additional topside workers can make it easier to assure that all safety measures are observed.

## ROTATION, EARLY RETIREMENT

Frequent rotation, especially of topside coke oven workers, can cut down on the chances of occupational disease since the length of time one is exposed is most important. This principle of rotation should hold for all places where extended exposure to hazards can cause disease.

Early retirement should also be on the agenda for workers whose jobs expose them to health hazards. At the recent convention of the United Steel Workers', many coke oven workers got up to suggest that retirement be provided after 20 or 25 years service, instead of the present 30 years. Even these shorter periods are not nearly enough, doctors suggest.

Concern about occupational health and safety is growing among steelworkers who not only want to bring home a decent paycheck, but want to live to enjoy it as well.





## Is your job killing you?

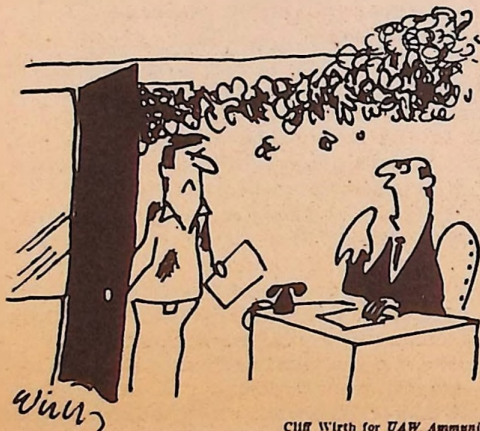
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as guinea pigs. Over 30,000 different chemicals are used in industry. OSHA has standards for 450.

But industry says not to worry. In fact they do more than that. They trot out their own scientific "experts" who say that things like smoking and "poor personal hygiene" are responsible for workers health problems, not dangerous conditions on the job. At a recent conference in Chicago, one company-paid researcher tried to claim that arsenic is good for workers!!!

Company doctors do the same thing on the shop floor--deny the sickness is job-related, give the guy some aspirin, and send him back to the line. Company doctors are concerned about health all right--the financial health of the company.

Workers Compensation benefits for disabled workers are below the poverty line in about 20 states. Long delays and waiting periods are common too. Workers compensation seems



Cliff Wirth for UAW Ammunition

"Another ridiculous grievance about working conditions? For Pete's sake, close that door!"

to compensate the doctors and lawyers--they get rich off of it. It does nothing to encourage companies to make the workplace safe. It's cheaper for them to pay their insurance rates and let workers be maimed and killed.

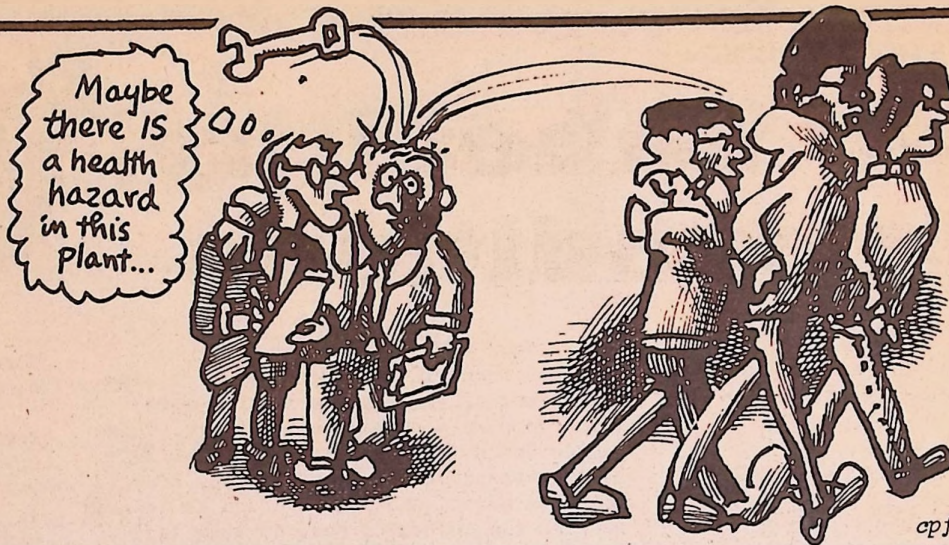
A strong OSHA and a workers compensation system that really compensates disabled workers are worth fighting for and should be major priorities of union political efforts. But other tactics get results too.

More and more locals are writing safety and health demands into their contracts. Strikes and work stoppages over these issues are becoming common too. As one local officer said recently, "We found a way to reduce the noise level in the shop--we walked out, put up pickets and shut down the plant." And they got their demands--noise controls on machinery, not ear muffs on workers.

Here are some shop floor demands union militants have been pushing for:

- the right of the local to fully investigate the accident or sickness
- the right to know the contents of all chemicals used in the plant
- the right of workers to be able to see their medical records
- the right to shut down unsafe machines or processes without loss of pay.

Control over the conditions under which we work--that's what it's all about. Our health and safety depend on it. Don't end up being another statistic.



## FROM HEART DISEASE TO MURDER

# Deaths related to economy

BALTIMORE. A top behavioral scientist has concluded that when unemployment goes up so do heart attacks, murders, suicides, infant mortalities, alcoholism, mental illness and crime.

Dr. Harvey Brenner of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore believes that the state of the economy directly affects people in unsuspected ways.

His studies show, even, that the death rate of infants less than a day old dramatically increase during periods of recession. He supports his conclusion by statistical graphs covering the period between 1914 and 1970 in which he compares unemployment with infant mortality and other phenomena.

Dr. Brenner says that one reason fewer infants survive is that economic insecurity often produces harmful stress, pre-

mature birth and alcohol and tranquilizer abuse by expectant mothers.

His studies show that the non-white infant mortality rate during recessions is markedly higher than the rate for white infants.

Members of minority groups and all persons at the low end of the socio-economic spectrum, Brenner says, are hardest hit by the whole range of apparently recession-related deaths from heart disease to murder.

Americans "are becoming more and more sensitive to economic fluctuations," he said, as induced by the increasingly close relationship between the economy and death.

Brenner says the time lag between the onset of a depression and an increase in deaths from such chronic ailments as heart disease usually is about two years.

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS?

# Blue collar jet lag

by JIM GRANT  
SHOP STEWARD, IUE LOCAL 301  
SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

Do you find yourself eating spaghetti for breakfast? Do you dread the kids' vacations from school? Are you normally confused about what day it is at work? Do you get ALL of your Vitamin C from fruit juices? Hello brother, I work third shift too!

I'm always amused by the articles belaboring the difficulties of executives in adjusting to different time zones on long distance flights. The stories usually point out the fact that these poor folks are up to their cocktail hour when they land in a country where breakfast is being served.

The problem is simple: people everywhere are subject to internal rhythms, a biological clock. The executive landing in Tokyo or London gets a short taste of what the third shift worker knows as a part of his life.

Without touching on the social aspects of night work, let me point out some medical facts as published in Nursing Times and Aerospace Medicine, two medical periodicals.

When day-night habits are reversed sleep is shorter, more broken by spontaneous



awakenings. This, quite apart from the noise of people, dogs and traffic. Frequent shifts between the stages of sleep can be defined by the electrical brain waves also take place.

Body temperatures, easily measured, can indicate the level of the body's function. This correlates to the efficiency of both mind and body. In the small hours of the morning both body temperature and work potential are lowest.

Adjustment to a new schedule can become complete, but many third shift workers sleep by day only when they positively have to. On days off they prefer to mix with friends and family and go to bed at night. Consequently, they can never fully adjust.

There's much more to be said on the subject, but it's noontime and the Street Dept. jackhammers have gone to lunch and honest, I've just got to get some rest!



# Hawkins bill hearings get grass roots views

by Philadelphia TUAD

With an estimated 150 people in attendance here April 11, Congressman Augustus Hawkins of California convened hearings on the Hawkins-Humphrey Full Employment Act. Leaders of organizations representing literally hundreds of thousands of Philadelphians gathered to express support for this bill.

First on the agenda to testify were the two co-sponsors of the hearings, Operation PUSH and the Committee for Full Employment. The Reverend Charles Walker speaking for Operation PUSH said, "the concept of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness presupposes a certain economic level of existence. Massive unemployment means an infringement of rights and a destruction of justice. The Federal Government must take responsibility in this crisis."

Brian Williams, an unemployed auto worker speaking for the Committee for Full Employment, said that the President's so-called economic upturn meant that 75% of the work force in his shop was still out of work. "It is painfully obvious," said Williams, "that many of us younger workers will never see the inside of that plant, again."

"By the end of June," Williams pointed out, "20,000 people a week will be running out of unemployment compensation in Pennsylvania. Welfare is the only alternative left to them. We don't want to be forced to go on welfare. We don't even want to collect unemployment compensation. We want jobs. We want to work to rebuild our community and our country."

Concluding his remarks Williams called upon Hawkins never to allow the bill to be compromised. "Instead," he said, "we call for it to be strengthened. We call for full implementation in one year instead of three. We call for community control of the local planning councils, and we call for a one year limitation on the amount of time a worker can be held in the Stand-by Job Corps."

## Magma continued from page 8

member, including that of Brothers Abel and McKee and all in the union's structure.

The rank and file recently scored a tremendous victory in the Chicago-Gary District 31. This is the largest district in the country. In the first run of the election, the Abel machine stole the votes of the rank and file candidate, but the Department of Labor ordered a new election. In the rerun of the election, Ed Sadlowski, the rank and file candidate, smothered the machine candidate by 2 to 1. This is a powerful message to Pittsburgh that we want our union back!

Labor took another great step forward last month when brothers and sisters in Youngstown, Ohio, won a historic strike against company lay-offs. Six thousand Steelworkers in four different locals forced the company to its knees and saved the jobs of eighteen laid-off workers. They ignored a court order telling them to go back to work and they won. But, here again, Brother Abel showed

Joe Ferrara, United Auto Workers Regional Director, compared today's economic crisis with the Great Depression in his testimony. Ferrara cited figures that put unemployment among Black workers at 25% and among teen-agers at 42%. "Unemployment divides men against women, race against race and young against old, and is to a large extent deliberate policy."

Father Joseph Kakalic of the Council of City-wide Community Organizations called the situation "a desperate irony that thousands are forced to be idle at the same time that there is such a dire need for community services, housing construction, and adequate transit systems." He called for mandatory citizen participation provisions in the bill and for local planning councils with real power to decide on the types of jobs to be done in the

Philly unionists hit unemployment rate



community. He also called for free election of those councils from the community.

Edward Finnegan of the Pennsylvania State Unemployment Service, speaking on behalf of Governor Shapp, told the Committee, "Critics say it will cost too much to pass this bill, we say it would cost far more not to pass it."

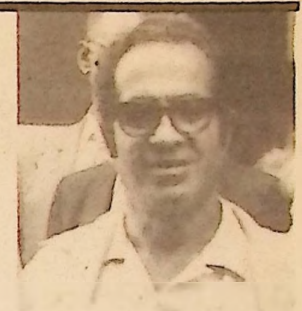
Richard Askew, President of the International Longshoremen's Association, Local 1291, cited the six-hour day with no reduction in the standard of living as one way of implementing the bill.

Frank Bradley, President of the 100,000 member Action Alliance of Senior Citizens, pointed out that "if we don't have full employment, the value of pension funds will soon be depleted." Bradley called upon the Committee to resist all efforts to red-bait the bill, pointing out that Social Security was red-baited prior to its passage.

his true colors by taking the company side and ordering the workers back, not just once, but several times! If anyone doubts this, these telegrams are available.

The fact that these pioneers won shows that it is possible to fight lay-offs. Where is the leadership of the United Steelworkers' Union in this hour of crisis? Sleeping on the job!

Yes, united we will win, but this is the only way. The great victories of tomorrow will only come about on the basis of the most solid unity of all workers. The monster copper corporations will not permit us to better our lives without struggle.



Norman Roth

## BLACK FAMILY IN DANGER Unionists guard members home

by LABOR TODAY Staff

Members of United Auto Workers Local 6 at International Harvester have joined forces to guard a house in suburban Chicago that one of their members, a Black man, is planning to buy.

Norman Roth, President of UAW L. 6, said the house has been set on fire three times in the last two months, when news of the sale was made known. C.B. Dennis, the prospective buyer, works at the Melrose Park Harvester plant and is a member of Local 6.

The most recent fire led to a unanimous vote of the UAW Local 6 membership to set up a volunteer committee of union members to provide round-the-clock protection to the house.

Roth has also informed UAW Region Four Director Robert Johnson of the Local's action. Johnson praised the local's stand and has promised to seek further protection from Cook County Sheriff Richard Elrod or Governor Dan Walker. Roth and Dennis have also met with the mayor and police chief of the suburban community of Broadview to discuss adequate protection.

The house in Broadview is very near to where Dennis works, Broadview being almost a Harvester community. The mayor, for instance, is a former owner of a Harvester dealership. Many feel that Harvester management has done little to promote Black-white unity in the community and some go further to suggest that the recent upsurge of Ku Klux Klan and Nazi Party activity plays into the hands of Harvester by splitting the workers in the area.

## Correction

The April LABOR TODAY misquoted Lorenzo Torrez as indicating that the arbitrator in the Chacon-Romero case "has never yet reinstated a fired worker." The statement is obviously an error, although the arbitrator in question is not friendly to labor. The Editors of LT apologise to Brother Torrez for this embarrassing mistake.

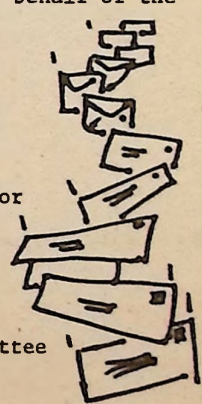
Write letters of support on behalf of the fired workers to:

Frank McKee, Director  
USWA District 38  
720 Airport Imperial Towers  
El Segundo, Calif. 90245

George Hildebrand, Arbitrator  
1904 Highland Place  
Ithica, New York

For more information write:

Rank and File Defense Committee  
902 Wouth Third Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85701





# 'THE COMPANY IS THE ENEMY, NOT THE MEMBERSHIP' Rank and file boiling at Magma

from ENRIQUE OLIVARES  
USWA Local 937  
Rank & File Defense Committee

Brothers Abel and McKee are at it once again. Recently, every Union officer in District 38 received a letter attacking the rank and file Steelworkers, particularly those recently fired by Kennecot Copper Co. in Silver City, N.M., and Magma Copper Co. in San Manuel, Arizona. *Dues-paying members* have been labeled "outsiders" and "disrupters."



The Abel machine, through the voice of District Director McKee, is using tactics that are harmful to the whole cause of our union. Our union is built around the dues-paying rank and file membership. This membership pays the dues for their representation. When is Brother Abel going to realize that the enemy is the company and not the membership? When are Brothers Abel and McKee going to stop lining up with the company and start representing the membership of our union?

It is this issue which is central to the problems affecting the fired and laid-off workers of Local 937, Magma Copper Co., in

San Manuel and also those of Local 890 in Silver City. The plain truth is that our union leadership supported the charge by the company of "illegal strike." We have in our possession the documents and statements to prove this. Brother McKee wants to "keep the record straight" so let's keep it straight. This is the most important part--the part we cannot afford to forget if we are to survive as a fighting union.

In Local 890 the membership is up in arms over the firing of their Union President Juan Chacon and their Financial Secretary Israel Romero by Kennecot. In this blatant company attempt to bust the local union, when the International Union should be rallying the support of the entire membership, they send out a letter telling the membership "not to give them the time of day."

This is a betrayal of every principle the union stands for. We must unite to save the jobs of these fired workers and of all the laid-off workers who will follow as a result of the deepening economic crisis that we are faced with. We say stop spending money attacking the membership and start fighting for the membership. We demand that the Union spend the time and money necessary to win the 6-hour day with no loss in pay. For this we will need the support of every trade union

(continued on p. 7)

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